

GERMANS FALL BACK BEFORE ALLIES' ATTACK

Invaders Are Being Swept Further From Coast, And Rotterdam Despatch Says General Retreat Has Been Begun Toward Prepared Line But Report Is Not Confirmed

FRENCH STATEMENTS DENIED BY GERMANS

In Official Report From Berlin the French Assertions of Dec. 12 Are Characterized as an Invention—Turkish Cruiser Bombards a Russian Port

Such confident claims have been made by the allies during the last week concerning the success of their new movement against the German line that the Berlin military authorities have issued a special statement to contradict them. The French official statements in particular have reported a long series of victories, including the destruction of a number of German batteries, the capture of trenches and the rout of the Germans in infantry attacks along almost the whole line.

The German statements, however, have said there has been little activity, and to-day's announcement from Berlin characterizes the French report of December 12, concerning the destruction of batteries and the capture of trenches, as pure invention.

A definite statement is made in Rotterdam that the Germans have begun a retreat, falling back in Belgium toward the prepared line farther from the coast. Official confirmation is lacking, however.

The report from Nish that the Servians have recaptured Belgrade was not confirmed from any other sources, although it was admitted in Vienna that the Austrians have suffered reverses in Serbia.

It is announced in Berlin that the Turkish cruiser Midirli, formerly the German warship Breslau, has bombarded the Russian Black sea port of Sebastopol, although with what effect is not stated. The sultan of Turkey, addressing Parliament, asserted that Turkey was forced into the war by the hostile acts of Russia, France and England.

SEVERAL GERMAN TRENCHES TAKEN

Together with a Number of Prisoners, Says British Official Report, Following Combined Attack By Allies.

London, Dec. 15, 1:35 p. m.—The official information bureau to-day gave out the following statement: "In the combined attack of the allies yesterday on the line from Houtholte to Wychelede in Belgium several German trenches and a number of prisoners were taken and substantial progress was made."

This statement is interpreted in some quarters as marking the beginning of a much-discussed attempt to make a general advance. The fact that the statement refers to the fighting in northern France, as well as in Belgium, is taken to mean that the offensive movement stretches over a considerable area. It has been known for some time that the British army headquarters has been pushed to the eastward and it is consequently assumed by British observers that the allies have made more progress than has been chronicled.

AMERICA AS INTERMEDIARY.

Peace Talk Begins to Assume More Confident Tone.

Berlin, Dec. 15, by wireless to London.—The official press bureau yesterday gave out the following: "Austrian newspapers say that when negotiations for peace begin, America will have earned the right to act as intermediary. These papers print sympathetic articles in connection with the opening of the American negotiations. They point out that the sending of gifts by American children to the children of dead soldiers in proof of the high motives by which the nation is guided."

PAYS \$450,000 FOR BALL TEAM.

Jacob Ruppert Acquires the New York American League.

French Lick, Ind., Dec. 15.—The New York American league club has been sold to Col. Jacob Ruppert. The price is stated to be \$450,000. Col. Ruppert will not acquire any interest in the Federal league.

Col. Ruppert, who is a New York lawyer, was in conference here yesterday with President James A. Gilmore of the Federal league, and Charles Waghman, owner of the Chicago Federals, regarding the proposed establishment of a Federal league club in New York. After the conference Col. Ruppert said: "I have already taken over the Yankees, the price being the only thing that remains to be settled. This probably will be \$450,000."

"I am afraid we were too late," said Mr. Gilmore. "No Col. Ruppert already has purchased the Yankees. I shall return to Chicago at once and try to find another bidder for the New York club. I may interest Pat Hanahan and Mr. Seefach of Louisville."

ROACH ORDERED TO DIE IN CHAIR

Convicted Late Last Night of Killing

John Barrett of Palatine, N. Y.—No Date Set for Execution.

Fonda, N. Y., Dec. 15.—Lewis M. Roach, the farm hand who has been on trial for the murder on December 20, 1913, of John Barrett, a Palatine farmer, was found guilty of murder in the first degree at 11:20 last night.

Roach was immediately arraigned and sentenced by Justice Kellogg to death in the electric chair, the date not being fixed.

The Barrett murder was one of the most sensational crimes in this section of the state. On the night of December 20, 1913, Katherine Barrett, aged 25, was stunned by a blow which rendered her unconscious for several hours. Her father, a wealthy farmer, aged 60, was shot while coming downstairs to her aid. He was also clubbed on the head. An attempt was made to fire the house, but this failed owing to timely arrival of neighbors summoned by Barrett's half-witted son.

Bloodhounds failed to track the murderers and the crime bid fair to become an unsolved mystery until Deputy Sheriff Earl Vanwie on June 23 last secured a confession from Lewis M. Roach, a farm hand employed by George W. Potter, admitting that he killed Barrett at the instigation and with the assistance of Potter. On June 26 both were arrested and charged with first degree murder. Roach pleaded guilty. The next day Potter was freed on motion of District Attorney Albot, Roach having said he lied in his confession.

During the trial of Roach reports were current that Potter might also be arrested but the district attorney refused to confirm them. Potter is a collegian agriculturist graduate, son of a former Oregon county judge, son-in-law to Attorney Andrew J. Nellis of Johnstown and Albany, who assisted in the defense of Roach.

SEVEN WERE KILLED BY GAS EXPLOSION

Nine Other Persons Were Seriously Injured and Building at Cleveland Was Wrecked Last Night.

Cleveland, Dec. 15.—A natural gas explosion in a two-story apartment house at 11,610 Madison avenue, last night killed seven persons, seriously injured nine others and wrecked the building. Windows for a block around were broken and persons in a drug store across the street were thrown off their feet and injured by broken glass.

Five members of one family and two unidentified girls were killed; nine others—four men, a woman and four children—were seriously injured; two women and five children are missing, and a dozen others were injured by the explosion, which occurred in the foreign section of the city.

A photograph studio occupied the first floor of the apartment and it is supposed the escaping gas became ignited there.

The explosion blew out the walls of the building and the wreckage at once caught fire. Firemen at the risk of their lives dragged the dead and dying from the blazing mass. Most of the injured were horribly mangled, with arms or legs missing. Several of the dead were children.

BISBEE TRIAL BEGINS DEC. 17.

Addison County Court to Take Up Bristol Poisoning Cases.

Middlebury, Dec. 15.—Announcement was made yesterday that Addison county court, which was in recess until December 21, will reconvene Thursday, December 17, at which time the trial of Don A. Bisbee, recently indicted by a special grand jury on four charges of manslaughter in connection with the recent wholesale poisoning of Bristol men by drinking liquor, will begin. The grand jury also returned two indictments against Bisbee for illegal liquor selling at Bristol.

Bisbee has been in the county jail here for six weeks. Jasper G. Page of Bristol and Rufus E. Brown of Burlington, former attorney general, are counsel for Bisbee and State's Attorney Frank W. Tuttle of Vergennes and Attorney General Herbert G. Barber of Brattleboro will represent the state. It is believed that the trial will be finished before the court takes a recess or adjournment for the holidays.

The petit jury had been examined on December 21, but will report for duty next Thursday morning.

"VAGS" CROWD "REGULARS."

House of Correction is Dumping Ground Under Present Law.

Rutland, Dec. 15.—Asserting that the men sentenced to the house of correction under the vagrancy law are "vagrants" and not unwilling guests of the state during the winter months, that they make poor workmen as a rule and that the house of correction is crowded, John E. Weeks of the penal board held yesterday that the legislature probably will be asked to repeal the change in the law made two years ago. There are at present 200 inmates of the house of correction and accommodations for only 175.

Said Judge Weeks: "We are unlike every institution of this sort in all northern states and the men now coming in under this law are known all over the country as 'vagrants' or not unwilling guests of the state during the winter months. The law when changed was an effort to get the men who were sentenced for tramping to work and this is not always possible in the various county jails as the law now calls for their commitment to the house of correction."

"Under the old law when the house of correction actually needed help in the marble shops, vagrancy prisoners were transferred to the house of correction and the scheme worked out well and it eliminated the possibility of the present crowded condition. This class of men as a general rule is of little use in the marble shops. In the first place the work is an outdoor work and the men cannot become expert in the marble shops. The hands of the shops tell me that the men have to be watched carefully or they will spoil work. They do not seem to care and this requires more than a little attention."

HAS NOT SUED FOR PEACE

Austria-Hungary Officially Denies Making Overtures to Servia

BUT ADMITS DEFEAT WITH HEAVY LOSS

Preparations Being Made for Defense Against Servians

Vienna, via London, 6:02 a. m., Dec. 15.—It is officially denied that Austria-Hungary has attempted to conclude separate peace with Servia.

While attributing the failure to the enemy's superior force as all government bulletins explain failures, the Austrian war office announces plainly an extended retreat and many losses.

"New decisions and measures will consequently be taken to repel the enemy," says the Austrian statement.

Apparently this means that the Austrian army directed against Servia will assume a defensive line.

The Servians claim to be pressing home their victory with more captures of prisoners and to have driven part of the invading army across the Drina river, and moreover, they express confidence that they are about to expel the invaders from Servian territory.

Belgrade Reported Recaptured.

London, Dec. 15.—The Servians after a fierce battle have recaptured Belgrade, according to a Nish dispatch to Reuter's Telegram Co.

The Austrians occupied Belgrade Dec. 2 after having besieged it since July 29, bombarding from batteries near Semlin and from monitors on the Danube. A large portion of the city was said to have been destroyed by the fire of the Austrians.

When war was declared the Servian government moved from Belgrade to Kragujevac and later went farther south to Nish, where it remains at present.

NORTHFIELD FAILED TO UPHOLD ITS REPUTATION

Was Not the Coldest Place in New England To-day—Relinquishing Distinction to Greenville, Maine, Which Wasn't Very Cold Either.

Boston, Dec. 15.—Seasonable winter weather reached New England today, but the arrival of the crest of the cold wave is not looked for until to-night. No unusual temperatures were reported this morning, the lowest official reading being eight above zero at Greenville, Me. At Northfield, Vt., where low marks frequently are recorded, but minimum to-day was 16 above. A stiff westerly wind swept the district throughout the day.

COLDER WEATHER FOR TO-MORROW

Mercury Fell 41 Degrees in 24 Hours and Reached Low Mark of the Winter

This Morning.

New York, Dec. 15.—In New York City the mercury fell 41 degrees in 24 hours, reaching the low mark of 10 degrees above zero at 7 o'clock this morning. The wind blew 48 miles an hour. The weather bureau predicted colder weather to-morrow.

TUG BURNED AT DOCK.

Flames Spread to Coal Dock at Machiasport, Me.

Machiasport, Me., Dec. 15.—During the gale yesterday much danger was done along the water front by fire and storm. Fire at an early hour destroyed the tug Samuel B. Jones and the flames carried by the high wind, spread to the Bulson coal dock, where a great quantity of coal was consumed.

The gale swept the schooner Seguin from her winter moorings and drove her high on the beach. Wind and high water did much damage to waterfront property.

U. S. AUTHORITIES TAKE HIM.

Ceylon Clark of Waterford Held Under "White Slave" Act.

St. Johnsbury, Dec. 15.—Ceylon Clark of Waterford who was arrested at Concord in company with Pearl Hawkins, a 15-year-old girl, and has been held on a charge of a violation of the Mann "white slave" act, in transporting the girl to Littleton, N. H., was yesterday turned over to the federal authorities. Papers were served upon him before United States Commissioner Harry Blodgett and his bail was set at \$1,000. He will be given a hearing at the office of United States District Attorney Alexander Dunsmuir Saturday.

Studying Vermont Industrial Conditions. Alexander M. Daly of Washington, of the United States commission on industrial relations, and F. C. Nunnemacher of New York, connected with the national association of manufacturers, were visitors in Montpelier yesterday, calling at the state house on Walter H. Crockett, head of the public department, Messrs. Daly and Nunnemacher with another person interested in industrial conditions are making visits to every state in the Union in an endeavor to ascertain the relations between capital and labor and the working conditions. The three members of the party are now in Northampton and the party will visit in Burlington. Mr. Nunnemacher and Mr. Daly leaving for that city last evening.

HORSE BROUGHT CORPSE INTO BARN

Dr. E. L. Washburn of East Berkshire Had Died in His Carriage While Returning from Visit to Patient in Neighboring Town.

East Berkshire, Dec. 15.—Dr. E. L. Washburn was found dead in his carriage yesterday afternoon by his wife, 20 minutes after he had been driven into the barn. Dr. Washburn had been visiting patients at North Ensbury. His team was heard to come into the yard at his home and go into the barn, and as the doctor did not presently come into the house, his wife went out to investigate. Dr. C. G. Abell and Dr. Ray B. Thomas of Ensbury were summoned, but Dr. Washburn was beyond help. He was 50 years of age, and is survived by his wife. He had been in fairly good health.

BROUGHT IN DEAD CHILD.

John Goodell of Petersborough, N. Y., Fined at Bennington.

Bennington, Dec. 15.—John Goodell of Petersborough, N. Y., who was arrested in Pownal on December 5 by Deputy Sheriff Frank Wilson and who has since been in the county jail here awaiting a hearing on the charge of transporting a dead body across the state line, was arraigned in municipal court yesterday. He pleaded guilty to the charge and Judge E. H. Holden sentenced him to pay a fine of \$25 with costs of \$19.75. He will probably be obliged to take an alternative sentence in the county jail. Goodell and his wife formerly resided in Pownal, adjoining the town of Petersborough, and on Saturday, Dec. 5, they drove to Pownal for the purpose of finding a burial place for the body of an infant. After his arrest Goodell insisted that the child was alive when he and his wife crossed the state line. At the hearing yesterday the state introduced a witness who testified that the child was dead before the couple left Petersborough.

PROPOSED PURCHASE OF SHIPS HEARD

Bill of Senator Stone Taken Before the Senate Commerce Committee—Republican Minority is Opposed.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 15.—Proposed legislation authorizing the government to purchase ships for ocean trade was up for consideration at a meeting to-day of the Senate commerce committee, which had before it the bill of Senator Stone. There is opposition in the Senate to the legislation principally among Republican minority, some of whom declare they will have Democratic support when the measure reaches a vote. The committee hopes to complete the hearings and report the bill immediately after the holiday recess. A similar bill before the House was introduced by Representative Alexander.

FIRE IN MONTPELIER.

\$300 Piano Again the Center of the Flames.

The old Kane residence on Barre street, Montpelier, was the scene of a small fire late last night and damage of \$500 was done, of which \$300 was on a piano that went through fire also six months ago. In fact, there have been several fires at the Kane place. The damage was confined to one room and the flames did not reach N. Colombo's barber shop in the front part of the house. The property is owned jointly by the Heaton estate of Montpelier and the Barre Savings Bank & Trust Co.

During the fire Assistant Chief Powers had a narrow escape when the base of the ladder on which he was standing with a hose slipped and let him fall to the ground. The hose swished around and struck Powers but did no injury.

FUNERAL OF WILLIAM MURRAY.

Was Attended By Many Neighbors and Acquaintances.

Funeral services for William Murray, whose death at his home, 100 Merchant street, Friday night followed an illness of several months, were held at the house Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Rev. Edgar Crossland, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, was the officiating clergyman and the hearers were chosen from a circle of Mr. Murray's neighbors and intimate acquaintances. They were: James Imah, Alex. Adams, Alex. Powers, William Morrison, George Bidel and Thomas Newcomb. A number of members from Clan Gordon, No. 12, O. S. C., to which the deceased belonged, attended the services. Burial took place in Hope cemetery.

CHARGED WITH GAMBLING.

Sam Bennett Alleged to Have Won \$100 At Poker Game.

St. Albans, Dec. 15.—Sam Bennett, who runs a shoe shine stand, novelty store and pool room on Lake street, was arraigned before Judge N. M. Post in St. Albans city court this morning on the charge of winning \$100 from F. R. Jolley in a poker game. Bennett waived examination and was bound over to the March term of Franklin county court, bail being fixed at \$200.

Appointed Trustee for W. L. Carr & Co.

At the first meeting of the creditors of W. L. Carr & Co., granite manufacturers of Waterbury, held in bankruptcy court at Montpelier to-day, C. D. Swaney of Waterbury, who has been acting as temporary receiver, was appointed trustee and Joseph Merrill and Clifford O'Neil of Waterbury and T. E. Callahan of Montpelier were named as appraisers. Attorney W. C. White appeared for Levi Swift and Miss Caroline West, signers of notes with the bank at Waterbury, and J. K. Pirie of Williams-town appeared for himself as a creditor.

TALK OF THE TOWN

Alfreda Concha and Ricardo Maranon of North Main street left yesterday for New York, where they planned to sell to-day on the American liner St. Paul, for Liverpool, England. From England they will cross the channel and proceed by rail to their former home in Santander, Spain. Messrs. Concha and Maranon will return to Barre in the spring.

CONVICTED OF PETIT LARCENY.

Frank DeForge Takes Alternative Sentence of 141 Days.

After an absence of less than five minutes from the courtroom the jury in the case of state vs. DeForge, charged with petit larceny, returned with a verdict of guilty late yesterday afternoon. The respondent, Frank DeForge, was sentenced to pay a fine and costs aggregating \$42.91 with an alternative sentence of 141 days in the house of correction at Rutland. State's Attorney J. Ward Carver conducted the prosecution and DeForge was represented by A. A. Sargent. Nearly a dozen witnesses testified in the case and the supper hour had arrived before the judge completed his charge and the jury retired. DeForge accepted the alternative sentence and was taken to Montpelier last night to await transfer arrangements for Rutland.

The case grew out of the alleged theft of soft coal last September from the coal pocket of the Barre & Chelsea railroad near the switchback, so-called, on the quarry line. DeForge was arrested several weeks ago and until the hearing yesterday he was at liberty under bail of \$100. Among those who testified for the state were James N. Gall, general manager of the road; Richard Carpenter, a section foreman in the employ of the road; Nathan Clark and his wife, Edna Clark, who lived near the DeForge home until they moved to Trow hill recently; George Donahue, who had moved to Washington since the alleged theft was perpetrated; Richard Lawlis, and Mr. and Mrs. Dana Comstock, neighbors of DeForge. William Ducharme, Frank DeForge and Margaret DeForge, children of the respondent, as well as DeForge himself, testified for the defense.

Evidence brought out in the testimony of Lawlis, Donahue and the Clarks tended to show that DeForge had transported bags of coal from the pocket to his home, cutting through a field in that locality to reach his destination. Lawlis said he saw coal protruding from the bags. Donahue saw DeForge dumping coal onto his kitchen floor and Clark discerned clouds of black smoke drifting from DeForge's home chimney. Witnesses for the respondent attempted to show that the man was in the habit of bringing groceries home from this city by the route leading from the switchback. DeForge's 14-year-old daughter was one of the star witnesses for her father.

Sheriff Frank H. Tracy of Montpelier left to-day for Rutland with DeForge, who has several small children. It is expected that the city will be interested in their welfare during the father's absence. Mrs. DeForge died last spring.

SEVERAL NAMES MENTIONED

As Possible Candidates for Coadjutor Bishop of Vermont Diocese.

A special meeting of the vestry of the Church of the Good Shepherd was held in the church last evening for electing delegates and alternates to the diocesan convention to be held in Burlington Jan. 20. The rector, Rev. W. J. M. Beattie, presided and the following delegates were selected: John Robins, J. V. Vaughan, L. K. Rickett, H. K. Bush and George Mitchell. For each delegate an alternate was appointed as follows: F. G. Howland, Waldron Shield, Ned J. Roberts, L. S. Gates and Athol Bell.

Delegates elected from St. John the Baptist church, Westerville, are as follows: Hugh Rayercraft, W. J. Coxon and W. J. Edwards; alternates, Alex. Bowdman, L. Pimbre and William McLaughlin. The special convention was called by the bishop of the diocese, Rt. Rev. A. C. A. Hall, some weeks ago and the principal business will be the elections of a coadjutor bishop to succeed the late Rt. Rev. William Farrar Weeks. Although the diocesan meeting is still several weeks distant, a number of names have been mentioned as possible candidates and among them are Rev. W. J. M. Beattie of this church and Rev. H. A. Flint, rector of Christ church, Montpelier. Neither one of these at any time has been an avowed candidate and it was stated to-day that the Barre clergyman would not allow his name to go before the convention. Rev. David L. Sanford, a former rector at Bellows Falls, and at present the diocesan missionary, is looked upon favorably by many as a successor to Bishop Weeks. Rev. George Y. Bliss, rector of St. Paul's church, Burlington, is a possible candidate, and so are Rev. Mr. Mansur of St. Michael's church, Windsor, and Rev. A. C. Wilson of Bellows Falls. The names of two or three clergymen residing outside the Vermont diocese are said to be under consideration in some quarters.

NOT RUSHED WITH BILLS.

Vermont Legislative Revisers Take Inventory of Measures.

Burlington, Dec. 15.—The legislative bill revisers, Collins M. Graves of Bennington and Thomas C. Cheney of Morrisville, held their first official meeting, since their appointment a few days ago by Gov. Allen M. Fletcher, last night at the Van Ness house at which time Daniel A. Guilford of Bennington was named as clerk. A stenographer will be engaged later.

The revisers will not be in session at Montpelier until Monday of the week the legislature convenes. For the present the revisers find that they can attend to their official duties at their homes.

Already 29 bills have been submitted to the revisers and word has been given Messrs. Graves and Cheney that about 12 more are on the way to the revisers' desks.

About every variety of legislation, with the exception of legislative grand bills, has thus far been covered in the bills submitted to the revisers.

Several bills have been sent to the revisers by persons not members of the legislature and these measures cannot be acted upon. The revisers call attention to the fact that persons wishing to introduce bills should submit such measures through the representatives of their towns.

The revisers expressed a desire to receive all bills as early as possible before the general assembly convenes on January 6.

SERIOUS LOSS TO WATERBURY

Plant of the Perry Granite Co. Wiped Out by Fire This Morning

45 MEN OUT OF WORK;
\$40,000 BURNED UP

Cause of the Fire Is a Mystery—Much Granite Stock Spoiled

Waterbury, Dec. 15.—The large granite manufacturing plant of the Perry Granite Co. was destroyed by fire this morning, entailing a loss of \$40,000 and throwing about 45 men out of employment. The loss is partially covered by insurance, \$23,000 having been carried.

The fire was discovered at 1:30 o'clock by one of the employees of the firm, Mr. Emmons, who lives nearby, and the flames had made considerable headway. As no night watchman is employed, Mr. Emmons gave the alarm, and trainmen on the Central Vermont yard nearby sounded an engine whistle, bringing out a large number of people. The fire department strung two lines of hose, but the fire had such a start that the efforts to save the property were in vain. The office building which adjoined the main building was only partially demolished by the flames, but it is said that it is practically of no value. The books and valuable papers of the company were taken out before the flames attacked the building and were carried to the home of the president of the concern, W. H. B. Perry.

The cause of the fire has not been determined. When first seen, the flames seemed to be restricted to the middle of the main building and about 25 feet from the boiler-room. The plant was full of granite stock, that alone being estimated in value at \$12,000. Two carloads of rough granite were moved into the building only yesterday, and there were several more carloads of stock in various stages of completion, two of them finely carved work. The plant was of comparatively modern construction, having been erected in 1909. The main building was 220 feet long and 50 feet wide, with office building attached.

The president of the company, W. H. B. Perry, resides in Waterbury, as does the vice president, E. J. Flannery. The secretary-treasurer of the concern is J. J. Goodwin of Barre, and one of the directors is George W. Gorman of Barre. The latter stockholder arrived in town this forenoon and consulted with the local stockholders; but no statement regarding the plans of the company to continue business was given out. There is at present an idle granite plant, that occupied until recently by W. L. Carr & Co., now in bankruptcy; and Waterbury people hope that arrangements can be made whereby the Perry Granite Co. will continue business in the Carr plant.

Resigns As Secretary. Charles H. Wishart to Leave Granite Manufacturers' Association.

Famors of the resignation of Charles H. Wishart from the office of the secretary of the Barre Granite Manufacturers' association, which have been in circulation since last week, were confirmed by Mr. Wishart himself in a statement made to-day. He has tendered his resignation to the board of directors to become effective Jan. 1, and while the resignation has not been accepted and pressure has been brought to bear upon the secretary for a reconsideration, it is understood that the board is seeking his successor. Announcement has already been made of the resignation of William Barclay of the firm of Barclay Bros. from the office of president, to which he was elected at the annual meeting of the association last Wednesday.

In both instances the resignations are tendered for purely business reasons and nothing but cordiality and good feeling mark the relations of the two officials with the directors. Mr. Barclay's resignation has not been formally accepted, although it probably will be, and the directors will likely appoint his successor.

Secretary Wishart's desire to be relieved of his duties became known for the first time last Wednesday, when he refused a re-election. His objections were over-ruled, however, for the time being, and it was announced that he had been elected clerk and treasurer of the association. Later, Mr. Wishart reaffirmed his decision to make a change and the directors were left with a single alternative. The retiring secretary has not announced his plans for the future, except for the statement that he intends to remain in town. He has been the efficient secretary-treasurer of the association since it was first voted to have a paid and permanent secretary four years ago. Prior to that time he was employed in the Granite Savings bank.

The selection of a new secretary is problematical, to say the least. It is known that the directors have under consideration the names of several men who would like the office or who could be prevailed upon to serve. Mr. Wishart remains at the helm until Jan. 1 and possibly longer if his assistance is required in acquiring a new secretary with the duties of the office.

MORE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

Are Being Held in Massachusetts Cities To-day.

Boston, Dec. 15.—With the exception of the special majority recall election to be held at Salem Dec. 23, the most municipal elections of the year in Massachusetts occurred to-day, the cities holding being Boston, Chelsea, North Adams, Beverly and Newburyport. In Boston, the only offices to be chosen were three members of the city council and two school commissioners.